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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Thursday, October 19, 1944

SUBJECT: "Home Gardens in 1945" Information from Victory Garden officials of the
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Take a last look. Not much left in that 1944 Victory garden, is there? Oh yes, there are some winter root crops - parsnips, turnips and carrots. Some fall greens too. But most of the gardens have been laid by for winter, Their products are stored on the pantry shelves and basement bins. And the memories are in a fanciful box labeled "Victory Garden - Fun and Profit - 1944"

During the coming months, as you enjoy good things from your garden, you'll enjoy the memories too. Recall the thrill of seeing those first tender plants? The excitement when the first blooms came? And the satisfaction of telling rival gardeners that you had snap beans a week earlier than anyone else? It was like finding gold when you dug the potatoes. There were so many in the hill. And remember how you saved the tomatoes during the hot weather with that fancy underground watering system?

Of course, you didn't solve all your gardening problems. No matter how much you planned nor how hard you worked. The bugs and the weeds and the weather took their toll. But looking back now, it's easier to recall the successes than the failures. And that array of canned fruit is a very real reminder that the garden profits haven't yet been eaten up.

Yes, the Victory garden of 1944, like the Victory gardens of 1943 and 1942, can be remembered for fun and profit. For recreation and exercise in the fresh air, for the pleasure of doing something for yourself, for nutritious, vitamin-fresh meals, for economy. The garden meant working together in the family and in the community. And each of us who raised a Victory garden must know that we contributed our small



share to America's war food supply.

All of which brings me up to gardening in 1945. A lot of us are wondering if we'll need Victory gardens again next year. At least there won't be the urgency to raise every bite of food we possibly can. Looks like our food stocks are getting to be adequate for our needs. And it's probably that our needs won't be so great.

Well, the National Food Advisory Garden committee met in Washington, recently, to consider the matter of gardens after the war. The National Advisory committee has 17 members....garden-minded people from all sections of the country. Governor Prentice Cooper of Tennessee is the chairman.

The advisory committee recommends that we continue home gardening in 1945. The committee believes the U. S. Department of Agriculture should give more emphasis than ever to the encouragement of home gardens, not only on the farms but in the cities, too.

The gardens of tomorrow, according to this committee, will grow flowers and ornamental plants as well as fruits and vegetables. And the gardener of tomorrow, whether he live in the country or right in town, will look to the Department of Agriculture for help. The committee suggests that the Agriculture Extension Service employ horticulturists....a sort of a town extension agent.....to help city gardeners.

There will still be work for the state and local garden committees too. Members of the National Advisory Garden committee say in thousands of communities across the land the volunteer garden committees have done a magnificent job of helping their fellow citizens carry on home gardens. Volunteer garden committees have found the land for the gardens. They've helped get supplies...the seed, fertilizer and machinery. And they've been generous with their time and practical advice. These garden committees are real community assets. We need them.

Since gardening is so much fun, the advisory committee says it has an important

place in rehabilitation work too. And the committee urges the U. S. Department of Agriculture to cooperate with other agencies in pushing gardening as a rehabilitation aid for men returned from the war.

With the shorter work week and more leisure most of us expect to have after the war, members of the committee say that other workers will find gardening a pleasant and constructive hobby too.

The committee calls upon the research staffs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the state Agricultural Experiment Stations to further the gardening program. They hope research men will develop new plants for home gardens. They expect much more work to be carried on in nutrition and home food preservation. All of us who've enjoyed garden fresh vegetables these past few months know how well we can eat and at what little cost we eat when we have a home garden.

In its final recommendations, the National Advisory Garden committee asks the schools and youth organizations to stress gardening as a school and home activity. Home gardens play a part in building better American citizens.

Well, from these recommendations, it looks like the 1944 Victory garden is more than a memory. More than fresh vegetables last summer. More than the food preserved for use this winter. The 1944 Victory Garden is a sign post on the road we're traveling toward America of tomorrow. Looks like home gardens are here to stay.

